

Elthorne Park High School

Achieving Excellence in a Learning Community



SMSC Policy

Adoption – September 2023

Review frequency – three yearly

Next review – September 2026

Status – Non-statutory

Committee – Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

At Elthorne Park High School we recognise that for students to develop into mature, independent adults ready to take their place in society we must ensure that each student receives the best possible learning experiences, pastoral care and guidance experienced within the school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural framework.

We actively promote the development of all students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing positive experiences through planned and coherent opportunities in the formal and informal curriculum and through interactions with teachers, other adults and the local community.

The aim of this policy is to outline our whole school approach and opportunities for students' SMSC development, so that the values inherent in our school ethos becomes a reality for the students.

The school has a carefully planned, comprehensive programme of PSHCE, together with a personal development curriculum which includes weekly assembly, tutor and extra-curricular programme; we endeavour to offer an inspiring and holistic experience to enable our young people to be Proud, Prepared, Principled, to Persevere and to Participate with a strong awareness of British values (modern values).

Scope including statutory requirements

- All maintained schools must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values. This policy was developed in response to National guidance – OFSTED Promoting and evaluating pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development 2004, the Education Reform Act 1988, the Education (Schools) Act 1992 and the School Inspections Act 1996.
- The policy also draws on 2014 DfE guidance outlined in 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'
- Part of a section 5 and 8 inspection, Ofsted inspectors must consider pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development when forming a judgement

of a school. It also takes into consideration the critical role SMSC has to play in ensuring our young people know how to be safe in an ever-challenging world.

- It should be read in conjunction with other school policies on Equality, SEND, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Curriculum, Assessment, Teaching and Learning and the PSHCE schemes of work.

Aims of SMSC

At Elthorne Park High School we share, support and strive to achieve the Ofsted pupil aims for SMSC summarised below but listed in full in the School Inspection Handbook 2022:

- Being reflective about beliefs, values and more profound aspects of human experience, use their imagination and creativity, and develop curiosity in their learning.
- Developing and applying an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school.
- Taking part in a range of activities requiring social skills.
- Developing an awareness of, and respect towards, diversity in relation to, for example, sex, race, religion and belief, culture, sexual orientation, and disability.
 - Gaining a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training.
 - Overcoming barriers to their learning.
- Responding positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities, provided by the school, including for example developing an appreciation of theatre, music and literature.
- Developing the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively in democratic, modern Britain.
- Understanding and appreciating the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life.

Our Values

The following values and promoting these student attributes lay at the heart of all policy development in the school.

The school's mission statement is
Achieving excellence in a learning community

We are proud - I proudly celebrate my achievements and those of people around me.

We are prepared - I have high expectations of myself and others and am prepared for each school day

We are principled - My actions show I know the difference between right and wrong.



We persevere - I am resilient, confident and independent in my learning.

We participate - I actively engage with wider opportunities and understand how I can be successful in the next stage of life.

We also have nine key attributes.

Positivity - You have a confident outlook on life.

Determination - You will not give up when things are difficult. You will keep going until you find a solution to the problem.

Resilience - You will be able to withstand stress and bounce back when you suffer a setback.

Unity - You are part of a community. You will work with us to achieve our shared goal of excellence.

Freedom - You understand freedom is choice. Freedom is where rights are balanced with responsibilities.

Compassionate - You understand the feelings of others and have a desire to help others.

Responsibility - You will do your share of the work and help others when they need help. You also have the responsibility to help make a better world.

Curiosity - You have a strong desire to learn. You want to find out more.

Respect - You know you are unique and valuable. You will listen to others and know others are valuable too.

For full definitions of “Spiritual”, “Moral”, “Social” and “Cultural” as they might apply to a school’s delivery please refer to Appendix 1.

Process and Practice

The Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development and Participation will provide guidance and support for ensuring the below actions take place, working closely with the attached Deputy Headteacher.

In order to realise the above aims we will do the following:

- Provide a coherent assembly, tutor and PSHCE programme which enables all four aspects to be delivered at different and appropriate times (personal Development and Behaviour Curriculum).
- Elthorne Wider Opportunities Programme allows all students to take part in activities to build their awareness of self and others in a Modern Britain.
- Provide opportunities for daily Acts of Collective Worship and reflection.
- Opportunities will also take place in extracurricular activities. Those with responsibility for running clubs, societies, trips and other events will develop their awareness of SMSC opportunities their activities have, and maximise the benefits they bring.
- Year based challenges (SMSC focus) provide opportunities for students to engage in a range of SMSC related activities including charity fund raising, voluntary work, school leadership opportunities and other community and personal challenges.
- Promote student voice and the power of democracy via the School Student Council and our Student leadership Team.
- All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this are planned and mapped in each area of the curriculum.
- Our Elthorne 4 Equality (E4E) leads on focused events through the school year.
- Those with responsibility for publicising the School or liaising with other schools and organisations should consider the SMSC aspects of their public relations. In addition to being representatives of the School, they should report SMSC matters arising from their links to the School at appropriate occasions.
- At pastoral level, the Pastoral Team and groups of tutors will regularly discuss SMSC issues and appropriate thought will be given about how aspects of these issues may be best communicated to members of staff, to pupils and parents, and to other interested individuals.
- The Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for SMSC with the Deputy Head teacher will be responsible for overall delivery ensure that individual and whole staff SMSC needs are mapped and delivered as part of the wider school curriculum and day to day life of the school.
- All Members of Staff should be aware of the importance of SMSC development and the enhancement it brings to the life of the School. They should feel free to voice related concerns and interests within the normal pattern of departmental, tutorial and staff meetings.

Developing the Moral & Spiritual

During their time at Elthorne Park High School students will be provided with opportunities across the curriculum to:

- Discuss matters of personal concern

- Engage in discussions about moral dilemmas
- Stimulate their curiosity, imagination and creativity
- Develop positive relationships with each other and with adults
- Develop a sense of belonging and community
- Explore the beliefs and values of others
- Develop and understand their own beliefs, and personal views
- Acquire and practice the skills of reflection
- Meet a wide range of aesthetic experiences
- Understand why people reach certain decisions about moral and spiritual issues and how these decisions affect their lives

Again, this area will require further mapping by subject leaders to identify opportunities for delivery.

Collective Worship

At Elthorne Park High School the aims of collective worship are:

- To promote, interpret and put into practice the school aims and values
- To celebrate the achievements of the school community
- To consider ideas and beliefs and their relevance to their own lives
- To develop a sense of community
- To think about the needs of others
- To provide opportunities for pupils to reflect and contemplate
- To celebrate diversity & inclusion

An annual 'assembly programme' has been carefully developed to provide a framework for assemblies throughout the year. Each Year leader is given flexibility to divert from this to provide SMSC support required by students at specific times throughout the year.

Delivery Across All Subjects of the Curriculum

The knowledge and understanding essential to both spiritual and moral development, and the ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements should be developed through all subjects of the curriculum.

Within the curriculum pupils will encounter questions about the origins of the universe, the meaning and purpose of life, the nature of proof and certainty, and the nature of humanity. Religious studies will have an important part to play in addressing questions of creation, meaning and purpose through the study of the major world religions.

Pupils will also be presented with opportunities to encounter and discuss moral issues. For example, such opportunities will occur in:

- Science (issues of life and death-abortion, IV fertilisation, smoking and drugs; energy

- and environmental issues)
- Humanities (environmental issues, issues of justice and equality-distribution of wealth, racial inequality, war and peace)
- English (moral and spiritual issues occur throughout literature)
- Technology (issues of wealth and distribution, alternative technology, the use of world resources)
- PE (Motivation, determination and character building. The promotion of fair play and team work in lessons)
- MFL (interaction and awareness of the world and communication around us)
- Drama (issues of equality, moral dilemmas, trust and responsibility)
- PSHCE (issues of equality, gambling, smoking and drugs, justice and freedom)
- RS and Citizenship (questions about right and wrong, differing religious perspectives)

Teaching and Learning Strategies

The most appropriate teaching and learning strategies are those which:

- Involve pupils in their own learning
- Enable pupils to work cooperatively and collaboratively
- Enable pupils to discuss and share their views in a safe and supportive environment
- Place new learning in the context of previous experience
- Explore currently held personal and cultural beliefs and values in the context of new learning
- Apply new learning to other situations
- Actively consider the implications of this learning for themselves, for society and for the environment

Important Principles for Personal and Social Development

- Personal and social development is an entitlement of all pupils
- The personal and social development of pupils is the responsibility of all staff and should take place throughout the curriculum.
- Year leaders are responsible for the personal and social development of pupils within their year group.
- The PSHCE Co-ordinator has responsibility for co-ordinating the taught PSHCE programme in consultation with Year Leaders.
- Curriculum and subject leaders are responsible for ensuring that their subject curriculum contributes to the whole school development of pupils' personal, moral, social and spiritual development.
- The assigned Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE and the Deputy Head has overall responsibility for ensuring coverage, coherence and Progression

Cultural Development

At Elthorne Park High school, pupils are provided with an opportunity to learn about and celebrate British values and culture and the wide range of cultures and ethnic

backgrounds that make up our diverse school community (understanding Modern Britain).

Pupils are also provided with opportunities to appreciate the diversity and evolution of cultural traditions within society and their local community, how conflicts sometimes occur, and how they can be reconciled.

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their exposure to the following across the formal and informal curriculum:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- Understanding and appreciation of British Values and the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- Knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Responsibility for SMSC policy review and implementation:

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| Deputy Headteacher – Student Support and Inclusion | Katy Reeves |
| Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development and Participation | Alicia Crix |

Information and data will be collected through our Quality Assurance timetable throughout the year relating to its delivery and practice using a variety of ways including:

- Lesson observations and learning walks.
- Curriculum content
- Student interviews (focus groups)
- Student and parent survey.
- Student council feedback.
- Regular auditing of Curriculum Plans of work by members of the Senior Leaderships team.
- Monitoring of Assemblies and Tutor Time activities.
- Monitoring of the school's extra-curricular activities programme including student uptake.
- Monitoring of trips and visits including student attendance.
- Wider departmental, pastoral and whole school self-evaluation.
- Feedback from visitors and members of the local community.
- Day to day interactions in lessons at playtime and around the school site.

Appendix 1

What is SMSC?

The school, incorporating the Ofsted definitions below, link a meaningful and coherent programme of delivery underpinned by its ethos.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is the development of the non-material element of a human being which animates and sustains us and, depending on our point of view, either ends or continues in some form when we die. It is about the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose. It is about the development of a pupil's 'spirit'. Some people may call it the development of a pupil's 'soul'; others as the development of 'personality' or 'character'. As children develop physically they do so emotionally and psychologically. In studying at school to gain knowledge and skills their personal beliefs and identities are shaped.

Moral Development

Moral development is about the building, by pupils, of a framework of moral values which regulates their personal behaviour. It is also about the development of pupils' understanding of society's shared and agreed values. It is about understanding that there are issues where there is disagreement and it is also about understanding that society's values change. Moral development is about gaining an understanding of the range of views and the reasons for the range. It is also about developing an opinion about the different views. Children enter secondary school with degrees of moral understanding defined by their families and friends and by their previous schooling. They should be encouraged to take personal responsibility for their words and actions. They should be expected to reject any form of bullying, discrimination or cruelty. They should be helped to deal with any moral dilemmas they may face.

Social Development

Social development is about young people working effectively with each other and participating successfully in the community as a whole. It is about the development of the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together. It is about

functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society. It involves growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects. This includes understanding people as well as understanding society's institutions, structures and characteristics, economic and political principles and organisations, roles and responsibilities and life as a citizen, parent or worker in a community. It also involves the development of the inter-personal skills necessary for successful relationships.

Cultural Development

Cultural development is about pupils' understanding their own culture and other cultures in their town, region and in the country as a whole. It is about understanding cultures represented in Europe and elsewhere in the world. It is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and being able to operate in the emerging world culture of shared experiences provided by television, travel and the internet. It is about understanding that cultures are always changing and coping with change. Promoting pupils' cultural development is intimately linked with schools' attempts to value cultural diversity and prevent racism.